BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the year 1918.

To the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Mayor and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the suggestions received from the Local Government Board that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer should be brief, I propose to carry this instruction out so that the records of the district may be preserved and continuous.

In common with the country generally, Maidstone was visited in July and August with a limited outbreak of Influenza, 4 deaths occurring.

In the middle of October however until the end of the year a second and much more virulent and widespread outbreak occurred, causing in all 114 deaths.

All ages were attacked but the greatest incidence was amongst those in the very prime of life namely between 25 and 45 years old. Twenty three males and twenty females between these ages died. The outbreak ceased early in January 1919.

The measures adopted to combat the outbreak included the following:-

(1). A circular was prepared by your Medical Officer of Health calling attention to the personal & general precautions to be carried out to prevent the spread, & the measures to be adopted should any one be suffering from an attack. In order to quickly distribute this information 6000 of these circulars were given to the Scholars attending the Public Elementary Schools to be taken to their houses. The procedure worked admirably.

(2). It was necessary to close all the Public

Elementary Schools from the 5th November until the 22nd. The Secondary Schools were advised to close for a like period.

(3) The Cinemas were visited & inspected with a view to prolonging the time between the "houses" & of securing better ventilation during the performances. They were also asked to exclude all children under 15. The cinemas were placed out of bounds by the Military.

(4) Much help was derived in the more urgent cases by opening a ward at the Sanatorium for treatment of the severer cases. Considerable difficulty was experienced at first as the Matron & Staff were all stricken with the malady. An efficient Matron was secured as a temporary measure & the School Nurse took temporary duty. Twenty seven cases were admitted and of that number 7 died. This high mortality is due to the fact that severe cases only were admitted that required nursing.

(5) The Health Visitors gave special attention to the poorer districts by visiting and giving advice generally and hunting up such cases as were suitable for institutional treatment.

Subjoined is a table showing the Deaths from Influenza during each week, with the sex & age distribution.

		Males.	Females.
July	13th.	1	1
	20th.	-	-
	27th.	1	-
Aug	3rd.	-	-
	10th.	-	-
	17th.	-	-
	24th.	-	1
	31st.	-	-
Sept	7th.	-	-
	14th.	-	-
	21st.	-	-
	28th.	-	-
Oct	5th.	-	-
	12th.	-	-
	19th.	-	-
	26th.	-	1
Nov	2nd.	4	4
	9th.	9	13

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	24th.	-	1
	31st.	-	-
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	14th.	-	-
	21st.	-	-
	28th.	-	-
Oct	5th.	-	-
	12th.	-	-
	19th.	-	-
	26th.	-	1
Nov	2nd.	4	4
	9th.	9	13

	Males.	Females.
Nov 16th.	10	11
23rd.	6	16
30th.	7	6
Dec 7th.	5	7
14th.	4	4
21st.	1	2
28th.	1	-

Sex & Age distribution.

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over	
Males	1	1	6	2	6	23	7	1	= 47
Females	1	-	3	10	18	28	5	3	= 68
									115

One of the most potent factors in avoiding complications is undoubtedly rest in bed with abundance of fresh air immediately any rise of temperature is discovered, and remaining there for at least one week after the temperature is normal. The inmates of several institutions for young people where a careful watch was kept, were treated in this manner, the windows both by day & night being flung wide open as well as the doors, and no complications whatever ensued.

Water Supply.

The public water supplies continue to be analysed chemically week by week & bacterially twice a year. The gathering grounds at Cossington & Boarley as well as the reservoirs at Boarley, Barming & Detling have been regularly inspected and found to be clean and in good order.

The water maintains a high degree of organic purity & remains constant in composition.

Infectious Disease. (other than Influenza.)

The following notifications were received:-

Diphtheria.	39.
Scarlet Fever.	11.
Enteric Fever.	19.
Erysipelas.	6.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	4.

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Measles. 98.

German Measles. 24.

Tuberculosis.
Pulmonary. 157.
Other forms. 27.
385.

The following cases were removed to the Sanatorium.

Diphtheria. 38.

Scarlet Fever. 8.

Enteric Fever. 19.

Influenza. 27.

The following deaths occurred:-

Diphtheria. 1.

Influenza. 7.

A Discharging Block is badly required at the Sanatorium so that cases may be thoroughly disinfected & kept in a ward free from any Infectious Disease before discharge to their homes.

A site for a Small Pox Hospital has been acquired but at present no building has been erected. Steps are being taken for the purchase of disused Army Hospital Huts for this purpose.

Housing.

No action has been taken during the year under the Housing & Town Planning Act. A special Committee on housing has approved plans for the laying out of land & the erection of 170 houses. They are also taking steps to acquire land for the erection of 230 houses thus making the total number of new houses 400

Maternity & Child Welfare.

The number of visits of the Health Visitor paid to the houses of children under 5 years of age during 1918 was 3104.

The approximate average weekly attendance at the Maternity Centre was 52.

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Housing.

No action has been taken during the year under the Housing & Town Planning Act. A special Committee on housing has approved plans for the laying out of land & the erection of 170 houses. They are also taking steps to acquire land for the erection of 250 houses thus making the total number of new houses 420

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The approximate average weekly attendance at the Maternity Centre was 52.

(4)

During the year an ante-natal clinic separate from the Infant Welfare Centre has been established and meets weekly, the average attendance being 3.

An additional Centre for Child Welfare has been established at Padsole, the average attendance of which is 12 children & 6 mothers.

Vital Statistics.

The calculations arrived at are based on the estimated population at June 30th. 1918 as supplied by the Registrar General through the County Medical Officer of Health.

The estimated population is as below, viz:-

For the Death Rate.	30,633
For the Birth Rate.	34,323

From out of this population there were registered

Of Births.	564.
Of Deaths.	577.
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr of age.	45.

The rates per thousand were

Of Births.	16·4
Of Deaths.	18·4
Of deaths of infants under 1 yr of age.	77·4

I have the honour to be,

Mr Mayor & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. Pye Oliver.
M.D.
Doctor of State Medicine (Lond

Maidstone.

July 17th. 1919.

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Deaths of Infants under 1 yr of age. 45.

The rates per thousand were

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of Births.	16.4

of deaths of Infants under 1 yr of age. 77.4

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